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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE:

INFO. 15 January 1947

SUBJECT Communist Underground Escape Routes from Spain

DIST. 25 February 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. According to information of 15 January 1947, the Spanish Communists in France have established an underground escape route from the interior of Spain by way of Hendaye-Plage, France. The route makes use of a rowboat service from Hendaye-Plage, run by a certain Vega, brother of a resident of Hendaye named Manuel Vega. The Vega in charge of the service is described by source as an unimportant smuggler who is paid by the Communists a fixed fee, said to be 1,000 pesetas, for each trip.
2. The contact in Irum is a man named Rojo, who was a captain in the Basque Militia in Madrid during the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish end of the service is not well organized, since the local people are not inclined to cooperate. However, according to source, lately they have been more responsive.
3. On the French side the service is well organized, and French identity papers are ready for the escapees when they arrive, so that they can depart immediately. Most of the escapees leave Hendaye at once for Paris or Toulouse.
4. Recently, a Communist was brought out by this route and departed in the direction of Paris. Source believes that he was one of a group of three Communist leaders from Madrid, each of whom escaped from Spain by a different route: one by way of Hendaye, another by way of Dancharinea, Province of Navarre, and the third by way of Perpignan.
5. It is reported that another underground escape route has been established through St. Jean-Pied-de-Mont, Department of Basses Pyrenees. The contact is a woman named Martinez, a resident of that town, who has suggested to a Navarre smuggler that he work for the Communists, promising him all kinds of facilities and means to carry on his work.

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